(d) whether the demand of SC/ST categories is not conceded satisfactorily; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of persons sent for training courses abroad during the last five years from the Ministry of Agriculture, year-wise is as under:

Year	No. of persons sent abroad for Training courses
1996-97	39
1997-98	25
1998-99	58
1999-2000	50
2000-2001	160
TOTAL	332

(c) The number of persons belonging to SC/ST category is 26. Their percentage to total number of such persons is 7.8%

(d) The suitable available candidates are nominated for training courses abroad.

Farmers Agro Service Centres in Gujarat

1399. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts in Gujarat where Farmers Agro Service Centres have been established;

(b) the functions of these centres; and

(c) the assessment of their performance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Government of Gujarat have informed that Farmers Agro Service Centres have been established in the districts of Mehsana. Surendranagar, Anand, Kheda, Kutch Sabarkantha, Rajkot, Narmada, Ahmedabad, Valsad, Surat, Dahod. Gandhinagar,

Panchmahal and Amreli for providing custom hiring services, repair and maintenance services for agricultural equipments and technical services to the farmers of the areas.

(c) The Government of Gujarat have informed that some Farmers Agro Service Centres are functioning satisfactorily and others are making efforts to increase their business to a satisfactory level.

Use of toxic materials in food production

†1400. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pesticides like D.D.T. Aldrin, Di-alderin and Aflatoxin, Lead and Poly Chloronatcd Biphenil are being freely used in producing food articles thereby affecting the human lives adversely in a developing country like India;

(b) whether Government arc formulating any effective scheme to check the adverse effects of chemical pesticides; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for playing with the human lives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) DDT, Aldrin, Aflatoxin and Lead and Poly Chlorinated Biphenil are not approved for use in agriculture. The use of Di-eldrin is restricted for locust control in scheduled desert area of Rajasthan under the supervision of Plant Protection Adviser to the Government of India. The manufacture of technical grade of Di-cldrin has been banned w.e.f. 17.7.2001 and import of this insecticides (technical and formulation) has been banned from the same date. The marketing and use of De-cldrin shall be banned completely from the date of expiry or the period of two years from the date of publication of the ban Order whichever is earlier.

(b) and (c) The following steps have been taken by the Government to check the adverse effects of chemical pesticides.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.